Seizure by Customs Officials

1270. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the seizure by customs officials at the international airports in the country have shown rise in the smuggling of mobile phones into the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Mobile phones have started coming only after the recent introduction of Mobile Phone services. Therefore seizure figures can not show any trend towards rise in smuggling.

(b) The details of seizure during the year 1995-96 upto 31.1.1996 are given below:—

No. of telephones seized	No. of cases	Value of seized Mobile Telephones (Rs. in lacs)	No. of persons arrested
1418	45	293.36	13

(c) Anti-smuggling agencies are alert to defect and prevent smuggling including smuggling of mobile phones. Sophisticated equipments such as baggage X-Ray machines and metal detectors are being used, in addition to developing specific intelligence in this regard.

Programme for Surplus Power Production

1271. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any programme has since been drawn up to make our country surplus in power; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) Planning for power generation is a continuing exercise. For the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997—2002), as per the studies carried out by the Government, the feasible capacity addition programme has been assessed as 56783 MW subject to the availability of essential inputs including funds. It has been estimated that during the terminal year of Ninth Plan, the country would be able to meet the energy requirement and marginal peaking shortage would be about 2%.

Rise in import bills of Petroleum Prodcuts due to rupee devaluation

1272. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state whether the rupee devaluation has resulted into rise in import bill of petroleum products by about Rs. 5,000 crores besides increasing the prices of other consumer items like colour television etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL): The cumulative impact of variations in the exchange rate of the rupee in relation to the US dollar, on the import bill of petroleum products would be known only the end of the financial year 1995-96 when the actual price of curde oil and related products imported, and exchange rates applicable at the time of payments for these imports are worked out for the full year. This is so, because the exchange rate of the rupee has been fluctuating boths way, i.e depreciating and appreciating, vis-a-vis the dollar and other currencies during the last six months. With regard to the prices